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CHURCH RECORDS OF SALT CREEK CIRCUIT, 1829-1833.

Mrs. W. R. Cowden, of 815 East Washington street, Bloomington, Ill., in looking over some ancient family relics a few days ago, found among her collection a small document which she prizes very highly and which will no doubt receive the best of care through the generations to come.

The paper was originally owned by her grandfather, Mr. Henry Dement, and seems to be the minutes of the meetings of the Salt Creek circuit which was one of the earliest Methodist circuits in this section of the country. The date of the first quarterly meeting is December 12, 1829, and gives the minutes of every meeting through November 9, 1833.

During most of this time the minutes are signed in the handwriting of the famous Peter Cartwright, who was one of the earliest pioneer ministers as a circuit rider. The names of those who attended the first meeting are as follows: Peter Cartwright, William Deneen, elder, Christian Shingles, Henry Dement, Young McLemon and Ezekiel Judd. These persons were members of the circuit for most of the time during these years and only a few names were changed.

In one of the meetings, Young McLemon applied for a license to preach and before the license was granted to him he was compelled to display his powers and ability before the members of the circuit. At another meeting one of the ministers was discharged on account of being found guilty of using intoxicants, as he had been found drunk several times.

Also connected with the small paper, which only contains eight written pages, is a report of the treasurer which gives a complete list of the expenditures of the church. The expenses at that time were exceedingly meagre and the ministers received only a small sum. From the statement, Peter Cartwright was only allowed the value of \$2.75 per quarter. This is supposed to be the exact amount that Cartwright received at that time and it seems now almost impossible for one to have lived on such a salary.

Copy of

“SECRETARY[S.] BOOK FOR SALT CREEK CIRCUIT.”

By James Stringfield, August 7th day, 1830.

[Copied by Milo Custer, Mar. 24, 1911.]

[NOTE—All words, signs, etc., in brackets were supplied by me. M. C.]

1st Quarterly Meeting. Conference held. Salt Creek Circuit [at] David Riddles, December 12th day 1829.

Members present: Peter Cartwright, Elder, William Deneen, C. P. Christian Shingles, Ext. Henry Deneen, Young McLemon, Ezekiel Judd, Class Leaders.

Question by the P. E. are there any Appeals [?]

Ans. the case of John Overstreet, a Local Preacher who was Suspended on the Charge of Intoxication was presented to the Conference and two Certificates in favor of the Charge Read and a communication from sd. Overstreet Wherein he admits the Charge in Substance, he Declining to make any Confession to the Church.

Quest. by the P. E. what punishment will you inflict on sd. Overstreet[?] on motion it was Decided that sd. Overstreet is Expel[l]ed from the Methodist E. Church.

Br. James Stringfield Elected Recording Steward. Jacob Constant was Elected Steward. David Riddle was Elected Steward. David Owen was also Elected Steward.

on motion its Resolved that this Quarterly Conference take the Labanon Seminary Under its patronage. Young McLemon is Elected manager of sd. Simenary, and also resolved to patronize the Destrict *Sunday School Society of the Methodist E. Church.*

Peter Cartwright. P. E.

the 2d and 3d Quarterly Meeting, no Conference Held as there was no business Cal'd for it.

2d held Bethel M. H. March 27 day 1830.

3d held June 26, 1830, [at] Stephens Settlement, north fork Sangamon.

4th Quarterly Meeting Conference held [at] Bro. Shingles for Salt Creek Circuit, September 11 day, 1830.

Members present, Peter Carwright, P. Elder, William L. Deneen, C. preacher, James Stringfield, L. E. Young McLemon, C. L. Christian Shingles, Ext'r. Dial Davis, Ext'r. David Riddle, C. L. William C. L. Ezekiel Judd, C. L. Corben Judd, C. L. John Rutherford, C. L. Daniel M. Murphy, L. p.

Quest. are there any Appeals[?]

Ans. none.

Young McLemon[s] Character Examined. Ap[p]roved. and License [re]new'd. Corben Judd char. E[x]amined and License renewed[?] to Ext'r. Dial Davis Char. Examined, ap[p]roved and License Renewed. Christian Shingles Character Examined and License Renewed. David Owens Character Examined, ap[p]roved and License Renewed.

Young McLemon came forward Recommended by the Society at Stringfields of which he is [a] member, for License to preach the Gospel. after proper Examination as to his gifts and Usefulness, Conference granted him License to preach.

Daniel M. Murphy came forward with a Recommendation from the Society at Shingles to preach. after proper Examination of his gifts and Usefulness Conference

granted him License to preach. he also made application for a Recommendation to the annual Conference as a traveling preacher. after Deliberate Examination Conference Commended him as a proper person for admission into the traveling Connection. James Stringfield.

1st Quarterly Meeting for 1831 held [at] Bethel M. [H.] no Conference held as no Business [to be transacted.]

2d December, 25 day.

2d Quarterly Meeting [at] Riddles. no Conference. no Business. April 2, 1831.

3d Quarterly Meeting. no Business.

4th Quarterly Meeting at Christian Shingles, Salt Creek Circuit, September 17th day 1831. Members present, Peter Cartwright, P. E. Asahel E. Phelps, A. S. Local preachers: Wm. L. Crissey, Wm. Royel, Ex[h]orters; C. Shingles, Corben Judd, Dial Davis, A. Lapham, Steward,[s] D. Riddle, J. Constant. Class Leaders, Jacob Morgan, Hugh Covell[?]

proceeded to Business.

Question 1st are there any appeals or Complaints[?]
ans. none.

2d are there any Recommendations[?]

ans. yes. Alonzo Lapham who was Recommended by the Class came before [**] the Meeting [in] Conference, and after an Examination of his Gifts and Grace Conference granted him License to preach as a Local preacher. Thomas Taylor was Recommend[ed] by his Class for License to Ex[h]ort. the Conference * * after Considering his gifts and grace do Licence him. Jonathan Miller was also Recommended for Licence to Ex[h]ort, but Conference thought it not Expedient to Licence him.

James Stringfield, L. E. his Character Examined and ap[p]roved.

Thomas Hargiss, Young McLemon, Wm. Stallings, Wm. T. Crissey, & Wm. Royal, Local preachers Were

Severally Called, Character Exam[in]ed and ap[p]roved. [and] their Licence[s] Renewed. and Wm. Royal was Recommended to the annual Conference to Enter the traveling connection. Christian Shingles, Dial Davis, David Owen, Corben Judd, Exortrs, Character Examined, ap[p]roved and [their] Licence Renewed. James Stringfield, David Riddle, David Owen and Jacob Constant, Stewards, their Characters Examined and ap[p]roved. Resolved. That the Circuit be Devided into Stewards Destriicts, and [as for] Each Steward it shall be his Duty to Visit and Lecture Each Class in his Destriict previous to the Next Q. Meeting Conference in the next year. Br[s] Wm. White, Thomas Taylor, [and] Joseph Caterline were Nominated and Elected ad[d]itional Stewards. Br. Owen being Left out—the first Q. Meeting of the En-suing year to be held at Bethel Meeting House in December, 1831.

Peter Cartwright, P. E.

Alonzo Lapham, Sct. E.

3d Quarterly Meeting Conference Cal'd [and] held for Salt Creek Circuit [at] Enoch Smiths, May th. 26. day, 1832.

Members present, Peter Cartwright, E. Wilson Pitner, C. P. James Stringfield, L. E. David Clark, L. E. Thomas Hargiss & Young McLemon, Prs. David Riddle, Joseph Carterland [?] John Roe, L.

A Recommendation from the Society at Stringfields was Laid before the Conference for John Overstreet to preach the Gospel—after a proper Examination of his Case Conference saw proper to grant him Licence to preach the Gospel.

Peter Cartwright E.

James Stringfield, Sect.

4th Quarterly Meeting held for Salt Creek Circuit [at] Christian Shingles, July 22 day, 1832.

Members present—

Peter Cartwright, P. E. Wilson Pitner, C. P. David Clark, James Stringfield, L. Elders, William T. Crissey, William Stallings, Alonzo Lapham, John Overstreet, John Shepherd, Young McLemon, Thomas Hargiss, Local preachers.—Christian Shingles, Corben Judd, Thomas Taylor, David Owen, Ex[h]orters.

Class Leaders present, Hugh Carell, Jacob Morgan.

Quest. are there any Complaints[?]

Ans. none.

Qs. 2d. are there any Ap[p]eals?

Ans. none.

Qst. 3d. were there Characters [to] attend to?

and the Characters of David Clark and James Stringfield L. E. was [examined] and Ap[p]roved, also the Characters of William T. Crissey, Alonzo Lapham, John Overstreet, John Shepherd, Young McLemon, Thomas Hargass, [and] William Stallings, Preachers, Examined. Ap[p]roved and [their] Licence[s] Renewed.

Thomas Hargess Recommended by the Q. Meeting Conference to the Annual Conference for the Office of Deacon. Wilson Pitners Character Ex'd [and] ap[p]roved, his License Renewed and [he was] Recommended to the Annual Conference for a traveling preacher. Christian Shingles, Corben Judd, Thomas Taylor [and] David Owen, Ex[h]orters, Characters Ex'd, ap[p]roved and [their] License Renewed.

Peter Cartwright, E.

James Stringfield, Stc.

1st Qr. Meeting, Salt Creek Circuit held November 4th [?] day, 1832 [at] Bethel M. H.

Members present—

Simon Peter P. E. [1?], Levi Springer, C. P. James Stringfield, L. E. Young McLemon, John Shepherd, John Overstreet, L. P. David Riddle, John Roe, Joseph Caterland, C. Leaders.

Q. st. are there any Complaints or ap[p]eals[?]

Ans. none.

The Next Qr. Meeting to be held [at] Br. Shingles the Second Saturday and Sunday in February.

James Stringfield Sec'try.

2d Q.r. Meeting Conference for Salt Creek Circuit held [at] Christian Shingles february 9th day, 1833.

Members present. Simon Peter, P. E. [!], Levi Springer, A. Sp. David Clark, L .E. Young McLemon, William T. Crissey, John Shepherd, John Overstreet, Alonzo Lapham Local P'rs.—Joseph Catterland, Corben Judd, Thomas Taylor, Christian Shingles, Ex[h]orters. Jacob Morgan, Hugh Carell, Wm. White, Stewards.

[Q.] are there any Complaints or Ap[p]eals[?]

ans. none.

Simon Peter[!]

James Stringfield, Sec.ty

Q.r. Meeting held Salt Creek Circuit in town of Decatur [!], may 4th [!] day, 1833.

Members present. Simon Peter, E. Levi Springer, A. P. Wm. T. Crissey, L. P. Alo[n]zo Lapham, C. P. David Owen Ex[h]orter.

Q. 1. are there any Complaints or ap[p]eals[?]

Ans. the Case of Thomas S. Taylor was Refer[r]ed to this Qr. Meeting Conference by the preacher having the Charge and T. S. Taylor not being Ready for trial the [case] by the Vote of Conference was laid over to the Ensuing Qr. Meeting.—Henry Dement was Elected Steward for Salt Creek Circuit.

Simon Peter, P. E.

James Stringfield, Sect.

4th Qr. Meeting Conference held, Salt Creek Circuit [at] Christian Shingles, August 5 day 1833.

Members present.—Levi Springer, Circuit P. Young McLemon, John Shepard, John Overstreet, Elo[n]zo

Lapham, Local Prs. David Clark, L. E. Christian Shingles, Joseph Catterland, Corban Judd, Ex[h]orters. the ————[?] Examined and ap[p]roved.

Q. are there any Complaints[?] none.

ans. none.

are there any ap[p]eals[?]

ans. the Case of Thomas S. Taylor tried from an ap[p]eal and his Licence taken from him and he [was] set back on trial.

Levi Springer, C. P.

1st Qr. Meeting held Athans Circuit, Bethel M. H. November, 9th day, 1833. Members present, Simon Peter, P. E. E. Medcalf, C. P. James Stringfield, L. E. John Overstreet, John Shepard, L. Prs. David Riddle, John Roe, C. Lrs. Qst. are there any Complaints or Ap[p]eals[?] ans. none.—When and Where [will we hold] our Next Qr. Meeting[?] Ans. [at] Br. Riddles the Second Saturday and Sunday in february [1834].

Simon Peter, P. E.

James Stringfield, Sect.

[With the foregoing I find a single sheet with this title written on the back, viz: "Papers of the Journal of Qr. Conferences and Stewards Record of Salt Creek Circuit." It contains on the opposite side the following accounts, etc.:

"Moneys Collected on Salt Creek Circuit for the first quarter."

Stringfields Class	\$1.00
fancy Creek Br. Hussey[?].....	1.00
Br. Riddles Class.....	2.75
Shinkles	1.7 ³ / ₄ [?]
Rutherford	1.25[?]
.....	1.00

—[?]Collection\$8.78³/₄[?]

appropriated as follows, viz.

P. Cartwright ,expenses.....	12½
Wm. L. Deneen, expenses.....	25.
P. Cartwrights quarterage.....	2.75
Wm. L. Deneen's quarterage.....	5.66¼

N. B.—In copying the foregoing I have endeavored to follow the original spelling as nearly as possible. The abbreviation C. P. is for Circuit Preacher, P. E. Presiding Elder; L. E. Local Elder; L. P. Local Preacher; M. H. Meeting House; C. L. Class Leader; Br. Brother; Ext. Exhorter, etc., etc. I do not know the meaning of the abbreviation A. S. It seems that either Cartwright or his Recording Steward was sometimes disposed to be facetious, as appears from the signatures “Simon Peter” P. E., etc.

MILLO CUSTER.

Bloomington, Ill., Mar. 24, 1911.